

OVER THE WIRES

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ITEMS FROM ALL POINTS OF  
THE COMPASS.

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FATAL NATURAL GAS EXPLOSION.

Six Persons Killed and Twenty-Seven  
More or Less Injured—Four Build-  
ings Demolished—The Cause of the  
Accident Not Known.

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By Associated Press.

explosion of natural gas occurred yesterday afternoon in a dwelling on the corner of Wall and Noble alleys, in the middle of a square bounded by Front, Main and Mound streets, demolishing the building in which it occurred and another on the opposite side of the alley. An alarm of fire a few minutes before had fired both alleys with people, and flying bricks and timbers worked great havoc among these.

Six people were slain, two of them women, and twenty seven more or less injured, many of whom will die. A large number of people who were in the

The extraordinary number of casualties was due to the fact that an explosion of some kind inside of one of the buildings had injured some of the inmates.

The sound of the alarm of fire and the cries of pain from within the building had quickly caused the allies to pack with people from the neighboring streets who were crowded into the paths of the fire.

A second explosion was of sufficient force to demolish two houses, and the flames belched forth upon the people in the alleys. At the same time they were covered with wreckage. No cause is known. It is surmised that the explosion was caused by a

**SLICED AND SHORT ACCOUNTS.**

**Cashier George Lounsbury Ends His Life.**

By Associated Press.

NEW YORK, January 25th.—Word was received in this city yesterday afternoon that George Lounsbury, cashier of the Commercial Union Trust company, shot himself at his home in Hackensack, N. J. Investigation also developed the fact that his accounts were short to the amount of \$30,000. He had been on duty from duty for three days, and yesterday morning he sent a telegram to postmaster Van Bort that he was confined to his home by illness, and would attend to his duties as soon as he got better. It was then that the investigation was made on foot, and the surmises made that \$30,000 were gone. Shortly

[illegible]

**Mr. and Mrs. Cleveland's Regrets.**  
By Associated Press.  
RICHMOND, January 25.—A week ago the corresponding secretary of the Association for the Preservation of Virginia Antiquities wrote to express her regret that Mr. and Mrs. Cleveland had not been invited to be present at the banquet of the association at the Colonial hall, the great social event which takes place here on the night of the 24th. The following reply was received yesterday.  
"Madam:—I am sorry to hear that Mr. and Mrs. Cleveland presents their compliments to the members of the central committee of the Association

ies, and their regrets that they will be unable to accept the invitation to attend the 25th anniversary of the Colonial assembly, to be held Wednesday, January 29, at 9 o'clock. \*

**Capital \$100,000,000.**  
\* Associated Press.

WASHINGTON, January 25.—Valente, the Brazilian minister here, yesterday received the following cablegram from Rio de Janeiro: "The Brazilian minister of finance, dated Rio Janeiro, January 24th. 'The capital for the great international banking institution to be known as the National Bank of the United States of Brazil was subscribed today within four hours. The capital

**Bishop Hare on Prohibition.**  
A petition of Bishop W. H. Hare, of Sioux Falls, S. D., head of the Episcopal church in Dakota, was presented to both branches of the legislature of that state recently, and, caused considerable excitement, especially among the lobby of the prohibitionists. Bishop Hare emphatically protests against the adoption of the prohibition bill now before the legislature, and which has every prospect of becoming law. He says that it is "injurious in its provisions, and stricter than there is any call for. Bishop

erferences between the state and church  
because it prohibits the use of wine  
for sacramental purposes. The bishop  
states the Bible and other authorities  
do not show that the use of wine for  
sacramental purposes is right.  
He therefore prays that the prohibi-  
tion bill may not become a law, or at  
least that the obnoxious feature be  
stricken out. The pending bill said  
to be the most stringent prohibition  
law ever enacted in Maryland.  
The influence of the State Prohibi-  
tion League and the Women's Chris-  
tian Temperance Union are being used  
to procure its passage.—Baltimore  
Sun.

employee of the Roanoke Machine Works, died Tuesday at Statesville, N. C., of heart failure. He had many friends here.